

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are presently pending in this application, Claim 17 having been canceled, Claim 16 having been amended and Claims 18-20 having been newly added by the present amendment.

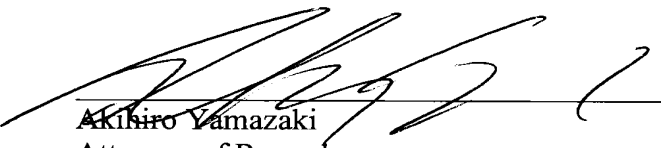
Claim 16 has been amended for clarification and Claims 18-20 have been newly added herein. These amendments and additions in the claims are believed to find support in the specification and/or claims, for example, Claims 1-3, and no new matter is believed to be added thereby. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually agreeable language.

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the outstanding Official Action, Applicants elect Group IV, Claim 16 drawn to a method for improving prognosis, as well as new Claims 18-20 which depend from Claim 16.

In view of the amendment and discussions presented above, it is respectfully requested that a full examination on the merits of Claims 16 and 18-20 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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(OSMMN 07/09)